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The Etymology of Cabinet.—By PAUL HAUPT, Professor in the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.

THE term *cabinet* denotes a small room, a collection of objects of art, etc., a piece of furniture with shelves and drawers; also the private apartment of a chief executive (or sovereign) and his advisory council; but the original meaning is: a small temporary habitation. *Cabinet* is a diminutive form of *cabin*, a hut or cottage, which appears in French as well as in early English as *cabane*, with *a* in the second syllable. In later Latin we find *cabanna*, hut of the watchmen in a vineyard;¹ also *capanna*, with *p*. This is evidently a transposition of *canaba*, which means a booth, especially the shop of a sutler following the Roman legions. The *canabae legionum* have been discussed by Theo. Mommsen in *Hermes* 7 (1873) 303, and by J. J. P. Joerensen in his paper *De municipiis et coloniis aetate imperatorum Romanorum ex canabis legionum ortis* (Berolini, 1871). Both papers are cited in Georges' *Latein. Handwörterbuch*, s.v. *canaba* and in Lagarde's *Mittheilungen*, vol. 2 (Göttingen, 1887), p. 365.

Canaba means also a place where wine and oil are stored. In England, *shop* is used instead of *store*, and *shop* is the etymological equivalent of German *Schuppen*, shed. *Shop* denoted originally a booth or stall, as did *canaba*, or, transposed, *cabana*. The word *cabana* appears in various forms: *cannaba*, *canapa*, *canava*, *kanaba*, *canipa*, *caneva*. I am inclined to think that *caupona*, tavern, public-house, is merely another variation of *cabana*. In Greek this word appears as *καπηλείον*, and in German as *Kneipe*.

Kneipe means not only a place where university students drink, but also the room in which a student lives; *Bude*, the etymological equivalent of *booth*, is used in the same way. Kluge, in his *Etymolog. Wörterbuch* (Strassburg, 1905), thinks that *Kneipe* in the sense of *den* is not the same word as

¹ Cf. Is. 1, 8 and the illustration on p. 163 in the translation of *Isaiah* in the Polychrome Bible.

Kneipe in the sense of *tavern*; but this view is untenable. Lat. *canaba*, German *Kneipe*, Ital. *cánova*, mean originally simply *booth*, just as *tavern*, Lat. *taberna*, meant originally *booth*, *shop*; Lat. *taberna* is connected with *tabula*, board. Kluge, following Grimm's *Wörterbuch*, derives *Kneipe* from the Low German *knip*, which means a *trap* or *snare* for birds, also a house of ill fame; but this uncomplimentary etymology is erroneous: *Kneipe* must be derived from *canipa* = *canaba*, Greek *καπηλείον* (for **καπανείον*, **καναπείον*), although Grimm's *Wörterbuch*, vol. 5 (Leipzig, 1873), col. 1406, states: *Ausser Frage bleibt mittellat. canipa*.

The German verb *kaufen* and the noun *Kaufmann* seem to be connected with Lat. *caupo*. The Gothic form of *kaufen* is *kaupōn*, to trade. The English etymological equivalent of *kaufen*, i. e. *cheap*, appears in several place-names in the sense of *market-place*, e. g. *Cheapside*. Originally *cheap* meant simply *trade*; cf. French *bon-marché*. To *chaffer* means to trade; *chapman* = trader, peddler.

In the early Arabic poems *تاجر* *tājir*, merchant, means especially *wine-merchant*,¹ *taverner*. Arab. *كربج* *kūrbaj* = Pers. *کلبه* *kulbā*² means both *shop* and *tavern*. In Arabic the common term for *shop* is *حانوت* *hānūt*, and this word has also the special meaning *wine-room*, *wine-vaults*. Arab. *hānūt* is an Aramaic (or Hebrew)³ loanword; it is connected with the Heb. verb *חנה* *hanā*, to camp, from which the word *מחנה* *maḥnē*, camp, is derived. For the connection of *חנה*, to camp, with *חנות*, tents, see below, p. 114. Heb. *חנות* *hanūth* means *vaults* of a prison in Jer. 37, 16. The Authorized Version translates here: *When Jeremiah was entered into the dungeons*⁴

¹ See Georg Jacob, *Das Leben der vorislamischen Beduinen* (Berlin, 1895), p. 99. Arab. *tājir* = Heb. *תגר* = Assyr. *tamkaru*; see Crit. Notes on Kings (SBOT.) p. 117, l. 29; contrast S. Fraenkel, *Die aram. Fremdwörter im Arabischen* (Leyden, 1886), p. 181.

² For the final *g* (*j*) in Arabic cf. Haupt, *Purim* (Leipzig, 1906), p. 16, l. 32.

³ The *caupones* were often Jews; cf. Jacob, l. c. and Victor Hehn, *Kulturpflanzen und Hausthiere*, sixth ed. (Berlin, 1894), p. 71.

⁴ Heb. *bēth habbōr* means *prison*, not *Brunnenstube*; cf. German *Jemand in's Loch stecken*.

and into the cabins (margin and Revised Version: *cells*). This word חֲנוּת *hanûth* should probably be restored in the passage 2 Sam. 23, 13, where the Received Text reads וְחֵית פְּלִשְׁתִּים וְחֵית בְּעֶמְק רִפְאִים, generally translated *the troop of the Philistines pitched* (Revised Version: *were encamped*) in the valley of Rephaim. But the Vaticanus has τάγμα τῶν ἀλλοφύλων, and the parallel passage in 1 Chr. 11, 15 reads מַחֲנֶה *maḥnê*, camp. A Heb. word חֵית *haiiâ*, tribe, does not exist; see n. 13 to my paper on Ps. 68, AJSL. 23, 227. In German, *Gewölbe* often means simply *store*, and in English a place where beer and wine are sold is often called *vaults*, no matter whether or not the place is vaulted and subterranean. French *caves* and German *Keller* are used in the same way.

Lagarde showed twenty years ago in the second volume of his *Mittheilungen*, p. 366, that حَانُوت *hānūt*=Heb. חֲנוּת (or حَانَا *hanāt*=*hanayāt*, *hanayā*) was the Semitic prototype of Lat. *canava*, *canaba*, *canapa*, *canipa*. A κάπηλος or *caupo* is called in Arabic حَانِي *hānayī*=Aram. חֲנוּאָה, Syr. سُنْدَا.

Heb. חֲנוּנִי. Syr. سُنْدَا, pl. سُنْدَا means *booth*, *stall*, *cell*, *arched chamber*; also *gang* or *crew*. The derivation of *Kneipe* from *canipa* (which Lagarde proposed in 1875), has been known for more than sixty years. But no one has called attention to the fact that French *cabane* and English *cabin* are merely transpositions of *canaba*, *caniba*, and that the common expression for *Kneipe* in French, *cabaret*, stands for *cabanet*, just as Greek καπηλείον stands for *καπανεύιον, καβανεύιον. *Cabaret* for *cabanet* is derived from *cabane*, just as *cabinet* is derived from *cabin*. Lat. *cabana* is a transposition of *canaba*,¹ and *canaba* is derived from a Semitic *hānaya* which we find in Hebrew as *hanā*. The *n* in *hanaya* is a secondary infix; the original root is *hy* or *hm*; cf. Assyr. *emu* (HW. 79^a)=Heb. עָמָּ; see AJSL. 23, 228.

Emu=*hamu* (SFG. 26, 3) and *hamu*=*hayu* (BA. 3, 580, 34).

So far as I know, no one has suggested a satisfactory etymology of *cabinet* and *cabaret*; but it is evident that French *cabaret* and *cabane*, English *cabin*, *cabinet*, also *chapman* and *cheap*; German *Kneipe*, *kaufen*; Latin *caupona*, *cabbana*, *can-*

¹ We find a similar transposition in βίσων, *bison*=βόναςος, *bonasus*.

naba; Greek *καπηλείον*, are ultimately all derived from the Semitic stem *ḥanaṣa* (Heb. חנה), to camp. French *cabanage* still means *camp*. In Becherelle's *Nouveau Dictionnaire National* the term *cabanage* is explained as follows: *Lieu ou campent certains sauvages de l'Amérique allant à la guerre ou à la chasse*. For the connection between *Kneipe* and *Kaufmann* we must remember that the German term *Marketender*, sutler (French *viandier*), is etymologically identical with *merchant*: it is derived from Ital. *mercatante*, which Shakespeare uses in the sense of *foreign trader*.